

[19 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Sale of sugar without official release order

*487. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint against some sugar mills selling sugar without the official order for releasing free sale quota of sugar;

(b) if so, the details of those mills;

(c) whether Government propose to allow future trading in and decontrol of sugar; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Based on the information received from various quarters regarding sale of sugar in the open market in excess of the quantity released and as part of its enforcement mechanism, the Government have been deputing officers to verify the position regarding sugar stocks and sale and despatch of sugar by the sugar factories. During April, 2000 to 15th April, 2001, 86 sugar factories have been visited. Of this, 12 factories have been found prime-facie violating release orders and they have been issued Show Cause Notices.

(c) and (d) The proposal to allow futures/forward trading in sugar is under consideration of the Government.

Purchase of Wheat by FCI in Punjab

*488. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat likely to be purchased by the Food Corporation of India from the various grain markets of Punjab in the near future;

(b) the criteria adopted by Government in this regard;